



INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species have caused irreparable harm to the Great Lakes ecosystem and have cost the region billions of dollars since the late 1980s. Preventing new invasives from entering is the best way to protect the Great Lakes. We must stop invasive carp by building structural measures that block their path as they make their way up the Illinois River toward Lake Michigan. And we must treat the water in ships' ballast tanks to prevent ballast water from carrying invasive species from overseas to the lakes and from one Great Lake to another.

Sample candidate questions:

- How will you fund programs and agencies that keep aquatic invasive species from establishing and spreading in our waterways?
- Many Great Lakes science and environmental centers that monitor the lakes for invasive species have faced proposed budget and staff cuts from the federal government. What actions would you take to protect this important research from cuts?
- Are there new programs or initiatives that you would support to reduce the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species?
- Studies have shown that ships traveling exclusively on the Great Lakes can spread invasive species in their ballast water. Do you support mandating ballast water treatment for these "Lakers"?

